Poor construction of National Highways in Rajasthan

894. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highways of Rajasthan are in a very poor condition and more prone towards accidents;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to verify poor quality of construction and the action to be initiated against the contractors; and

(c) by when, these National Highways would be repaired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) Maintenance and repair of National Highways is a continuous process. National Highways in Rajasthan are generally maintained in traffic worthy condition keeping in view the availability of resources. All quality control measures are being exercised and action is taken as per procedure, through the State Government.

Road Accidents

895. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of road accidents in the first six months of this financial year and the fatality accounted as a result thereof, State-wise;

(b) how it compares with the previous year; and

(c) the new preventive action taken by Government to reduce the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) The data in respect of accidents, persons killed in road accidents are received from States on an annual basis. The data for the year 2001 have not been received from most of the State Governments as yet. However, on the basis of information available, the State-wise details relating to the years 1999 and 2000 are given in the statement enclosed (*See* below)

(c) Necessary measures of Road Safety on all National Highways are incorporated in the Road Design at the detailed project report stage for the concerned National Highways. The Government is taking a number of steps besides highway design to improve the road safety on National Highways. These include: